



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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HAZARDOUS WASTE PERMIT DENIED FOR STATEWIDE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.

SACRAMENTO -- Citing a history of violations of the hazardous waste control laws, DTSC Director Ed Lowry today announced a final decision to deny a Hazardous Waste Facility Permit to Statewide Environmental Services, Inc. (SES) located on South Main Street in Los Angeles County. Under the permit denial, DTSC granted SES until July 1, 1999 to cease operations at the facility.

SES also entered into a settlement agreement with DTSC not to challenge the denial, and direct a payment of \$110,000 to the Western States Hazardous Waste Project, and the California District Attorney's Association's prosecutors project in lieu of fighting the alleged violations underlying the permit denial.

The one-half acre SES facility is located at 12618 South Main Street. The facility is surrounded by industrial, commercial and residential land uses. Residences are located on the eastern and southeastern borders of the facility. No buffer zone separates the SES facility from neighboring residential property.

"The location of the facility was a concern, when combined with the violations and the hazardous waste mismanagement problems. Violations included failure to minimize releases, improper storage of incompatible wastes, mixing incompatibilities, and failure to take precautions to prevent the ignition of hazardous wastes. The mismanagement of the waste resulted in releases of fumes and a fire. Clearly, the facility demonstrated it could not properly manage hazardous wastes," Lowry added.

SES originally began operations between 1973 and 1990 in Los Angeles, California as R and R Industries. R and R Industries hauled industrial waste and worked with registered hazardous waste transporters duly authorized to haul hazardous, corrosive, and toxic wastes. On April 6, 1981, R and R Industries was granted an interim status permit from DTSC, pending approval of a Hazardous Waste Permit.

In August 1990, SES purchased the business from R and R Industries and continued operations as an interim status facility. During May 1991, SES applied for a Hazardous Waste Facility Permit from DTSC, under California's Hazardous Waste Control Law. The application was duly publicized in the surrounding community comprising of light industrial, commercial and residential businesses and homes.

DTSC is one of six boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC's mission is to protect and enhance public health and the environment by regulating the management of hazardous waste and promoting reduction.

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